



City Administrator's Report

December 2003

Dear Reader,

This monthly report summarizes and provides updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings:

December 9, 16 Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

December 1-9 Unity Shoppe and Downtown Organization holiday flags and décor
December 9-31 Downtown Organization holiday flags and décor

Community Events:

- | | |
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| December 1-18 | ▪ Toys For Tots toy drive – Collection boxes at City Hall and city departments |
| December 5 | ▪ 51 st Annual Downtown Holiday Parade, 6:30 p.m., State Street (Sola Street to De La Guerra Plaza) – (805) 962-2098, ext. 40 |
| December 13 | ▪ 52 nd Annual Milpas Street Holiday Parade, 10 a.m.-noon, (805) 962-2382 |
| | ▪ Tuba Christmas, Storke Placita, mid-700 block of State Street, 12-1 p.m., (805) 962-2098, ext. 22 |
| December 14 | ▪ Parade of Lights, Santa Barbara Harbor, 5:30 p.m.; Santa Claus arrives at 3 p.m. at the City Pier |
| December 20 | ▪ Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, Cabrillo Blvd., (805) 897-1982 |
| December 25 | ▪ Christmas Day – City Hall closed |
| January 1 | ▪ New Year's Day – City Hall closed |

City Administrator

Wrapping up another year

With the holiday season upon us and as 2003 draws to a close, this is indeed a special time of year. Enjoy your family and friends as you share in the spirit and traditions of the season.

A year of new possibilities is just around the corner.

Best wishes for the holidays,

Jim Armstrong
City Administrator

City Council work session

On December 8th, City Council will hold a work session to review progress on the city's FY04 Work Plan, and to review initial issues and financial information related to preparing the Draft FY05 Budget. The purpose of the work session is to inform City Council of "How are we doing?" and "What's coming up?" on current programs and projects. In addition, financial information important for development of next year's budget will be presented. The work session will begin discussions with City Council to receive feedback and direction for preparing the Draft FY05 Budget.

Employee bargaining unit

Represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 620, a new, city bargaining unit has been formed for the city's approximately 300 temporary employees. A recent count of interest cards has verified that a majority of temporary employees in the new bargaining unit have selected the SEIU Local 620 to represent them for collective bargaining purposes on matters within the scope of representation. SEIU for many years has been the exclusive representative of the city's General Bargaining Unit employees, and Treatment and Patrol Bargaining Unit employees.

"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV, Channel 18

December's edition features: Police Department Traffic and School Bus Safety Enforcement; Police Activities League; Unity Shoppe; ABOP Recycling Facility; 90-Plus Birthday Bash; Fire Department HAZ MAT Vehicle. Weekly airtimes: Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

Airport Department

Passenger traffic

In October, 67,032 passengers flew in and out of SBA – a 6.6% increase over the same month last year. With close to 1,800 outbound seats available aboard 43 daily departures, the United Express Denver flights continued to have the highest average loads at 91%. Beginning mid-month, United is scheduled to upgrade the Denver service with larger jets that provide first-class accommodations. Year-to-date the passenger count is up 2.6%.

Safety grading

In September 2000, the Airport completed a major project, which involved grading and compacting 125 acres of existing safety areas adjacent to runways and taxiways. As part of the project, 23 acres of wetland habitat had to be removed. To mitigate the habitat loss, the Airport restored about 27 acres of wetland habitat in the Goleta Slough. The project permit requires that the mitigation site be maintained and monitored for seven years to ensure successful restoration. In October 2003, the Airport contracted with URS Corp. to begin the second year of monitoring and maintenance, plus all photo-documentation, report preparation, and distribution to the relevant regulatory agencies. All monitoring reports so far have shown that the mitigation site is successfully meeting the performance criteria listed in the project permit.

Centennial of Flight Tribute

December 17, 2003 is the 100-year anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight over Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Mayor Blum will proclaim December 17, 2003 the Centennial of Flight, commemorating the Wright brothers' achievement. The Airport has celebrated the Centennial of Flight with a youth aviation art contest, online links to educational sites and history of aviation highlights presented in the Airport Tour Program.

Noise compatibility

A public workshop on the current Noise Compatibility Study was held on Dec.3 at the Airport Administration Office, to promote aircraft noise control and land use compatibility. Program objectives are to identify current and projected aircraft noise levels, their impact on the airport environs, and propose ways to reduce these impacts.

Food concession

A new food concession was established downstairs in the main lobby of the Airline Terminal this month. The Creative Croissant will sell take-away deli items and specialty beverages such as lattes and smoothies. The new food and location should prove to be very popular based on passenger survey data that indicated the need for quality fare on the go.

Community Development Department**Waterfront hotel**

Fess Parker's latest plans for a new waterfront hotel have been granted Substantial Conformance. The 150-room hotel, to be located on the corner of Cabrillo Blvd. and Calle Cesar Chavez, was designed by Henry Lenny, and received preliminary approval in November from the Historic Landmarks Commission.

\$33 million bond issue

A \$33 million tax allocation bond issue approved by the Agency Board and the City Council sold on a negotiated basis on Dec. 3, 2003 to fund capital projects proposed by the agency, including: sidewalk improvements; Carrillo Recreation Center restoration; downtown and waterfront restrooms; Granada Garage costs; and also to refund existing agency debt.

Finance Department

FY05 budget process underway

City staff has begun developing the budget for next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2004. Staff has reviewed multi-year financial forecasts for the city's General Fund with the City Council's Finance Committee; and on Dec. 8th will review them at a City Council work session. The forecasts show the likely need to continue using reserves for at least the next two fiscal years to balance the General Fund operating budget.

California's unresolved budget difficulties of the last two years continue to add significant uncertainty to the city's budget situation. Prior to Governor Schwarzenegger's reduction by two-thirds of the vehicle license fee (VLF) or "car tax," the city expected to receive about \$6 million in VLF revenue next fiscal year. Unless the governor and legislature honor their commitment to make up the loss caused by the VLF reduction, the city would lose two-thirds of its total VLF, or approximately \$4 million. This represents almost 5% of our total General Fund revenue.

City staff will continue to work on budget development for the next several months, with the budget due to be released to the City Council and the public in early April 2004.

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

The table below shows October TOT is up approximately 6.5% from October of the prior fiscal year, and up 3.1% fiscal year-to-date.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year
July	\$ 1,204,593	11.3%	\$ 1,171,041	-2.8%	\$ 1,183,951	1.1%	\$ 1,198,952	1.3%
Aug	1,246,973	7.9%	1,276,212	2.3%	1,328,278	4.1%	1,349,990	1.6%
Sept	952,314	14.1%	808,657	-15.1%	849,174	5.0%	887,095	4.5%
Oct	839,946	3.7%	790,919	-5.8%	830,054	4.9%	884,400	6.5%
Yr Total	\$ 4,243,826	9.3%	\$ 4,046,830	-4.6%	\$ 4,191,457	3.6%	\$ 4,320,437	3.1%

Fire Department

Training drill on Stearns Wharf

In October, the Fire Department used the Sea Center building for a Shoring and Breaching drill, in which we simulated rescue scenarios in collapsed buildings. The ability to use the empty building was extremely helpful with this type of training exercise.

Swiftwater rescue training

County agencies including the Coast Guard, participated in a training exercise in Santa Barbara County. The training involved the use of helicopters to rescue victims from the water.

Rescue vehicles

The Airport Fire Station received two new rescue vehicles for emergency response to plane accidents and other airport emergencies.

Library Department

Eastside Branch Latino festivals

The County Arts Commission and Friends of the Eastside Library have provided funding to celebrate Latino holidays and heritage at the Eastside branch with crafts, stories, music, and traditional foods. Begun last year with a private donation, the festivals celebrate Dia de los Muertos, Las Posadas, Dia de los Niños/Dia de los Libros, and 16 de Septiembre, Mexican Independence Day; attracting neighborhood residents of all ages to the library and its services.

Library Services Agreement

The Santa Barbara City Council recently approved and authorized execution of the annual agreement between the County and City of Santa Barbara to provide library services to South Coast residents. County support increases from \$5.52 to \$5.80 per person. Approximately \$522,000 will support library services at the city's Central Library and Eastside Branch. The remainder will fund library branch operations in Solvang, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos, Goleta, Montecito, Carpinteria, and the Bookmobile.

Parks and Recreation Department

Long on life

The 19th Annual Ninety-Plus Club Celebration of Life in November at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort attracted 183 guests over the age of 90 – and six over the age of 100. Parks and Recreation hosted the event, with funding from Carl Lindros of Santa Barbara Securities, The Hutton Foundation, The Santa Barbara Foundation, and Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort.

Hoops and hip-hop weekend for teens

A basketball bound busload of Santa Barbara teens escorted to Staples Center in Los Angeles by staff from both Teen and Adapted Programs saw the L.A. Lakers battle the Detroit Pistons and the Miami Heat in mid-November. That same weekend, Teen Programs sponsored a hip-hop dance at the Carrillo Gym. Several teens plus Youth Council representatives also attended the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation party at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort, where Council Member Babatunde Folayemi received an award along with singer Harry Belafonte.

Youth intern

The City Council in November named Kevin Sprecher – a San Marcos High School junior and four-year member of the Youth Council – as youth intern for the Park and Recreation Commission.

Westside digs Bohnett Park

Santa Barbara's ongoing, Bohnett Park creek restoration project attracted some 50, area residents to its Community Planting Day in November. Young and older volunteers planted 235 native plants, and spread mulch along the recently restored Old Mission Creek bank. Children also created handmade signs asking park visitors to take care around the new plants.

Making room for health at Franklin Center

Budget concerns have postponed indefinitely Santa Barbara County's plans to expand the County Public Health Clinic at the Franklin Community Center. However, the Public Health Department will lease 560 square feet of non-profit office space at the center for clinic use.

Douglas Family Preserve

The Planning Commission in November certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Douglas Family Preserve Management Plan and Dog Off-Leash location study. Staff expects to present to City Council in Spring 2004 a revised Management Plan with the EIR mitigations.

Franceschi Park

The Park and Recreation Commission in November approved the final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), made California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings for the Franceschi Park Master Plan and House Rehabilitation, and recommended that City Council adopt the Master Plan. This item is on the Dec. 16, 2003 City Council agenda for approval and adoption.

Kid's World

Kid's World playground at Alameda Park re-opened in November following an annual inspection, repairs, maintenance of the play structure, surfacing replacement, and tree trimming.

Public Works Department

Reservoir Demolition Open House

The city will host an Open House at Sheffield Reservoir – corner of Mountain Drive and Mission Ridge Road – on Dec. 13, 2003, from 8-10 a.m. Construction team members will be on hand to answer questions about the in-progress demolition.

Green Gardener Grads

The Green Gardener Certification Program in November graduated its 7th class of 60 landscape maintenance professionals, who received certificates in resource-efficient and pollution prevention landscape practices. A list of certified green gardeners is available to the public at www.greengardener.org. For more information on this program, contact Water Resources Specialist Alison Jordan at (805) 564-5574.

Water Treatment

A major upgrade of the Cater Water Treatment plant – now in the 14th month of a two-year, \$13 million construction contract – is about 80% complete. Aging equipment is being replaced, and changes are being made to meet upcoming drinking water regulations and standards mandated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Improvements will increase reliability, efficiency, and security of the entire water treatment operation. Keeping the plant operating during construction to supply uninterrupted drinking water adds to the project's complexity.

Waterfront Department

2003 Parade of Lights

“Holidays in Paradise” is the theme of this family-friendly, Dec.14th boat parade, fireworks display, snow, live music, and Santa’s Village on the City Pier in the harbor. Best viewing locations include Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara Breakwater, and Cabrillo Blvd. This year’s event benefits Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The parade planning committee includes the Stearns Wharf and Harbor Merchants Associations, Santa Barbara Yacht Club, local media, Waterfront Department, and the Maritime Museum.

Repair contract

Each year, the city puts out a contract bid for a construction firm to perform Stearns Wharf maintenance and repair. That project currently is out to bid. Typically, the awarded contractor begins mobilizing in January and finishes by the end of March, working evenings to avoid heavy traffic congestion and minimize disruption to Stearns Wharf tenants.

New management

With eight years in food service, Mr. and Mrs. Kim are the new tenants operating Deli Sushi GoGo at 119-B Harbor Way. The site is limited to retail and wholesale seafood, fish products, smoked fish, Asian food items, and ice cream.

Parking brochure

The 2004 Waterfront Parking Brochure has parking lot fee schedules, regulations, instructions, and a user-friendly map to better serve Santa Barbara waterfront customers. City residents receive a copy of the brochure in their December water bill. Brochures are also available to the public at City Hall, Parks and Recreation Office, Santa Barbara Visitor Center, Outdoors Visitor Center, waterfront parking kiosks, and waterfront offices. For questions, contact Waterfront Parking Coordinator Frank Hornocker at (805) 564-5523.